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#### **NOTICE:**

1

# Partial closure of the J.E. Irausquin Boulevard postponed for 2 weeks



ORANJESTAD — The Department of Public Works — DOW — announces that the construction work on a culvert in the vicinity of Oceania Resort has been postponed for 2 weeks. The contractor in charge has encountered

some delays with the necessary pipes required for work.

The contractor has confirmed they will definitely begin excavating the pavement next to Oceania Resort. Pedestrians and joggers in the area of Eagle Beach should take note they will not be able to use the walk until the work is

DOW expressed their gratitude for everyone's patience and understanding during time and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause

### Chavez in physical therapy to return home: Bolivia



BOLIVIA, La Paz : Bolivian President Evo Morales (2-L) waves as he leaves Quemado palace to deliver a speech before the Congress for the third anniversary of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in La Paz (AFP photo)

LA PAZ (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is undergoing physical therapy to return home from Cuba, where he has been convalescing from cancer surgery, Bolivian President Evo Morales said Tuesday.

Morales, who made the announcement in a report to the Bolivian Congress at the start of his eighth year in office, said he had been in contact "with Cuba" Sunday and Monday. He did not provide more specifics about the source of his information.

"Our brother, commander Hugo Chavez, is now in physical therapy to return to his country," he said.

Chavez, 58, has been the force behind an alliance of leftist Latin American governments formed to counter US influence in the region, and Morales is a close ally.

The Venezuelan president, who has not been seen in public since undergoing a fourth round of cancer surgery in Havana December 11, was too sick to return to Caracas to be sworn in to another six year term on January 10.

In recent days, however, Venezuelan officials have said his condition has improved, despite complications from surgery that included a severe pulmonary infection which resulted in a "respiratory insufficiency." On Monday, Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said after visiting him that Chavez was joking and giving orders.

"He made decisions on our participation in the CELAC Summit. So happy we are moving forward," added Jaua, referring to an upcoming summit of Latin American and Caribbean States this week in the Chilean capital Santiago.





# Aruba Tax Bureau issues new declaration forms

As of January 1st 2013 the "income adjustment stipend" has been increased by Afl. 25,- per month for those earning between minimun wages (Afl. 1.604,60 in January 2013) and Afl.

2.500,- per month. In addition the minimum wage will be officially increased to Afl. 1.636,69 as of February 1st 2013.

Those receiving only the old age pension with no other income, the income adjustment stipend has been increased by Afl. 50,- to AFl. 100,- per month.

These changes result in the following consequences:

- There are two new tables for the new income adjustment stipend, one for the month of January and for the month's February to December. In these tables the amount of the income adjustment stipend will be specify depending on the salary the employee is to receive. The tables are available for download on the website www.siad.aw.
- There is a new form for the employer's declaration of the income adjustment stipend. This form is especially for employees wishing to apply for the income adjustment stipend. This form is also downloable of the website www.siad.aw.

The form can also be picked at the main office of Aruba Tax Bureau or at all government offices.

Which employee can received the income adjustment stipend?

The employee wishing to eligible for the income statement adjustment must comply with the following

requirements:

- The employee received one salary between Afl. 1.639,69 (in January 2013 this amount is Afl. 1.604,60) and Afl. 2.500,00 per month
- The employee works in the private sector
- The employee works an average of 20 hours per
- The employee is registered at the Census Bureau
- The employee does not received old age pension nor, widow's (widower's) or orphan pension

In the following cases the employee may also be entitled to income adjustment stipend:

- The client receives only the old age pension, the widow or widower's pension or the orphan's pension
- The client is married to a person who receive the old age pension, the widow or widower's pension or the orphan pension of the 60 years of older

# Minister of Tourism receives courtesy visit of Radisson's new GM



Last week Minister of ourism Otmar Oduber received a courtesy visit of Radisson Aruba Resort's new GM Mr. Mark Lyttleton-Frances. During this visit they exchanged ideas for 2013, not only on how to better the product Aruba but also on changes to take place at The Radisson. Minister Oduber also took the opportunity to congratulate Radisson on the remodeling they did on 355 rooms and public areas last year. Since making these changes Radisson Aruba has reached the EDR for which Radisson is known. The Minister also elaborated on the recent growth of 4.4 percent in stay-over visitors in 2012, which surpassed the estimated goal of 3% and an increase in rooms as was estimated in the last quarter.

### US support to French forces is free of charge: Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States will not demand payment from France for the use of US transport planes ferrying French forces and equipment to Mali, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

"We're not asking for compensation or reimbursement from the French," spokesman George Little told reporters.

"The focus right now is not on money but is on achieving our shared goal of holding militants in northern Mali." An initial arrangement had assumed the French would reimburse Washington for airlifting troops, tanks and other hardware to Mali but the Americans have since dropped that requirement, a US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

The Pentagon said the US Air Force had deployed C-17 cargo planes for five sorties as of Tuesday morning, carrying more than 80 French troops and 140 tons of supplies to the war-torn African nation.





#### **IPhone tops in US** as Android rules the world: report

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) Apple's iPhone remained the most popular smartphone among US buyers in the closing months of 2012 while Android handsets were on top worldwide, Kantar Worldpanel ComTech reported on Tuesday.

"At the end of 2012, the global (operating system) picture shows Android on top, but clearly the rate of growth it experienced over the past year is beginning to slow as easy wins from first-time smartphone buyers begin to reduce," said Kantar global consumer insight director Dominic Sunnebo.

Apple iPhones accounted for 51.2 percent of smartphone sales in the United States during the 12-week period ending December 23rd of last year, according to Kantar.

Smartphones powered by Google-backed Android software made up slightly more than 44 percent of sales while handsets based on Microsoft's Windows operating system were a distant thirdplace with 2.6 percent, the report indicated.

### Maggy's says farewell to Erica Rodriguez-Abath after 35 years of service

Recently a breakfast in honor of Mrs. Erica Rodriguez-Abath was held with the management team Maggy's N.V. After 35 years of employment with Maggy's Erica has decided to start enjoying her retirement.

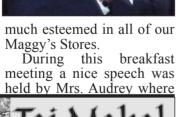
Erica started working at Maggy's at a very young age Maggy's in the position of cashier. Later on she moved on to Sales and after was promoted to supervisor. After her role as supervisor she went on the position of Store Man-

She has worked at all Maggy's locations and is



much esteemed in all of our

meeting a nice speech was held by Mrs. Audrey where





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she mentioned the fact that Erica is and will always be as part of her family. In her own words a solid rock during good and bad times, personally as well as professionally.

Erica has been very loyal to the company, the late Mrs. Maggy and now to Mrs. Audrey and her daughters Sheelah and Shamila.

Erica has always given her personal touch to our clients. She makes sure that they leave happy and satisfied.

Mrs. Audrey made use of this occasion to present Erica with a beautiful jewel, legacy



of the late Mrs Maggy, as a gift for her loyalty. Erica will always remember the family of Maggy's whenever she wears this piece of jewelry.

Erica finalized this occasion stating that she is very proud to have worked for Maggy's N.V. and she will always be ready to help out and willing to share her experience with everyone who needs it.

The Maggy's Family wishes Erica all the best for the future and hopes she enjoys her well-deserved retire-



## Marriott's Black and Gold Gala for top associates of 2012 celebrating the accomplishments of 2012

The Aruba Marriott recently held a Black and Gold Gala for all 275 associates nominated in 2012. Recognized by the Executive team, the managers and supervisors, and All Star Team of the 4th quarter were presented during the event and the All Star Team of 2012, Associate of the Year 2012, Supervisors of the Year 2012 and Managers of the year 2012 were recognized for their achievements. After all the awards, associates danced the

The event started with the recognition of the All Star Team of the 4th Quarter. With over 75 nominees, the winners of the All Star Team of the 4th Quarter were: Rosalba Kock (Casino Pit),

night away to the music of

Tsunami and Prive.



Manager of The Year 2012 Ramon Ventura

dedication during the 4th quarter: Ghislaine Croes (Activities MVCI) and Teofilo Dominguez (Kitchen)

4th Quarter went to **Simone** partment and coming up with **Silooy** of Events.

The following associates visor of the Year was an- 2012 Yazira Feliciana and were recognized as Supervi- nounced by Ocean Club Gen- Ghislaine Croes sor for their hard work and eral Manager Corey Guest. **Ghislaine Croes** (Activities MVCI), who took ownership during the absence of the Activities Manager taking The title of Manager of the charge of the Activities degreat initiatives for the MVCI



Supervisors of the year

announced the All Star Team of the Year 2012: Shajir Croes (Systems), Thomas Wolff (Kitchen), Erwin Figaroa (Engineering Resort), Sandra Restrepo (Housekeeping Surf), Alington Conliffe (Casino Slots) and



Associate of the Year 2012 **Benjamin Pineda** 

most times on the Guest Survey of the Marriott Ocean Club, providing excellent service to guests and going that extra mile.

The Associate of the Year, Supervisors of the Year and Managers of the year, received a congratulatory letter from the General Manager as



All star team of the year

initiatives. The second Super-

Jacqueline Celaire (Engineering), Jenard Gomez (F&B), Yokasta Felix Guerrero (Housekeeping Resort), Luz Feliciana-Nuñez (Kit-Manager Robert Guidice anchen), Benjamin Kock (AYS) and Ratna Soekrasno (Accounting). The Supervisors and managers of the 4th quarter were with the Casino Marketing ing guest service. also recognized.

After an exclusive 3- hotels Assistant Director of course plated dinner for all F&B Ramon Ventura was 500 guests, the executive presented the title Manager of team announced the winners the Year 2012 by Dir. Of of 2012. Casino General Revenue Strategy Ben Figaroa. Ramon has been a nounced the first Supervisor mentor for many associates of the Year Yazira Feliciana in 2012, providing guidance (Casino Marketing). She has and support, as well as assistbeen instrumental in 2012 ing the Front Office, elevat-

The executive team also



4Qt All star team

Claudia Simms (F&B). Each member of the All Star Team received a cash prize and an iPad.

Finally Ocean Club General Manager Corey Guest made the last announcement of Associate of the Year 2012 who turned out to be Benjamin Pineda of Marriott's Ocean Club Front Office. Ben was the associate named

well as a plaque, cash prize, a round trip ticket for two to the continental US or Caribbean, and a complimentary 5 night stay at any Marriott property. The General Manager Tom Calame, together with the entire executive team would like to congratulate all nominees and winners of 2012!

Photos by Jason Inesia

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#### Report on local bees submitted to Santa Rosa and Veterinary Dep.

In 2012, the Veterinary department received a petition to import African bees. The department asked the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries - Santa Rosa - for assistance making their final decision. Santa Rosa has recently instigated a beekeeping program, which sells all the equipment needed. The department had even installed an apiary section as part of a test to study the development of the bees, and so help educate farmers and the public on the importance of bees for the pollination of crops.

Santa Rosa also received a petition from the Den Bosch Hogeschool in the Netherlands to approve a study prepared by 3rd grade student, Stef Claessen, together with



the Veterinary Department. They gave their approval for Claessens to come to Aruba to study Apiculture and the impact of African bees on our island. He arrived here last July for 6 months; conducting his studywith the cooperation of the Veterinary Department and Santa Rosa.

The study concentrated on the inventory of the Aruban bees, the diseases that affect them and other factors that can impact their development. This study was also to investigate the consequences of importing African or other types of bees. After analyzing all the information, Claessens' advice was to avoid the import of African bees as they are very aggressive and can be dangerous for our local bees, which are a very passive species. Santa Rosa's only aim is to raise awareness among farmers on the importance of bees for agriculture and for the production of honey and other natural products.

Stef Claessens met recently with Veterinary Department Acting Manager. Dr. Peter Barendsen; Santa Rosa Director Nathalie Maduro; Husbandry Section Supervisor, Rebecca Croes; Acting Director Angelo Schenker; Chief Planner Roberto Croes and Johnny Falconi of the Apiculture Section to give an extensive explanation of his report. He also gave a copy of his report

to Mrs. Maduro and Mr. Schenker. In return, he received a beautiful gift in appreciation for his enthusiasm and a job well done.

It is the hope that Santa Rosa and the Veterinary Department continue to work together on these kind of projects for the benefit of Aruba. As soon as Santa Rosa officials receive official approval from Den Bosch Hogeschool they will submit a copy of the report to all beekeepers on the island. The National Library and the University of Aruba will also receive copies of the report, making it easily available for all interested parties. Those wishing to obtain a copy can visit the Santa Rosa's website and request it.



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### Controversial Keystone pipeline passes another hurdle



CHICAGO (AFP) - The controversial Keystone pipeline passed another hurdle Tuesday after the governor of Nebraska approved a new route that will avoid environmentally sensitive areas like the state's Sand Hills.

President Barack Obama denied approval for the \$7 billion pipeline last year out of environmental concerns.

The US State Department is currently reviewing the company's revised application for a permit to proceed with the 1,179-mile Keystone XL pipeline from Hardisty,

Alberta to Steele City, Nebraska and is expected to announce a decision early this year.

Governor Dave Heineman noted in a letter to Obama that construction of the pipeline would bring his state \$418.1 million in economic benefits and result in \$11 to \$13 million a year in additional property taxes.

The pipeline operator will also be responsible for developing an emergency response plan to deal with a potential spill and take out \$200 million in liability insurance to cover its financial responsibilities in case of a spill, Heineman noted.

"Construction and operation of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, with the mitigations and commitments from Keystone, would have minimal environmental impacts on Nebraska," Heineman wrote.

TransCanada began work in August on a 485-mile pipeline between Oklahoma and the Texas coast that does not require US presidential approval.

Canada is already the largest energy exporter to the United States. The Keystone XL pipeline would bring 830,000 barrels of oil per day to the Gulf Coast.

Environmentalists fear an accident would spell disaster for aquifers in central US Great Plains states.

They also oppose the project because exploiting the oil sands requires energy that generate a large volume of greenhouse gases and say a change of the route will not lessen the pipeline's dangers.

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# Netanyu tops Israel vote, but weakened by centrists



TEL AVIV (AFP) - Benjamin Netanyahu's rightwing Likud-Beitenu list won a narrow majority in Tuesday's election but was weakened by an unexpectedly strong showing by the centrist Yesh Atid, according to exit polls.

The polls, released by Israel's three main television stations, showed Netanyahu's Likud, running on a joint list with the hardline Yisrael Beitenu, winning just 31 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, followed by Yesh Atid with 18-19 and Labour in third place with 17.

The far-right nationalist religious Jewish Home party, which had been widely expected to take second place, won 12 seats.

Although Israel's political system does not specify that the party with the most votes is guaranteed to form the next coalition, Netanyahu is widely expected to be banded.

the task of pulling together 61 MPs to form a majority.

Polls have consistently predicted Netanyahu's reelection, with pundits suggesting he would preside over a coalition leaning further to the right. The exit polls suggest it is now more likely to be a centre-right government.

Shortly after the polls were broadcast, Netanyahu thanked Israelis for reelecting him for a second consecutive term in office and pledged to build a coalition which was "as broad as possible."

"Based on the results in the exit polls, it's clear the citizens of Israel determined they want me to continue as prime minister, and that I form a government as wide as possible," he wrote.

He said he would immediately begin efforts to to do that.

The new government will be faced with tackling two key issues: how to revive moribund peace talks with the Palestinians and how to tackle the question of Iran's contested nuclear programme, which Israel and much of the West believes is a guise for a weapons drive.

## Mozambique begins evacuating 55,000 people hit by floods



MAPUTO (AFP) - Mozambique authorities on Tuesday started emergency evacuations in the flood-struck south where 55,000 people are said to be in immediate danger from rising water levels.

"We are asking people to move to safer areas. We estimate there are 55,000 people affected," a spokeswoman for Mozambique's Disaster Relief Management Institute, Rita Almeida, told AFP.

Emergency teams are already in place and motorboats have been dispatched to the area to take people to safe ground.

The south and the centre of the country have been placed on red alert after experiencing the heaviest rainfalls seen since devastating floods killed around 800 people in 2000.

The latest downpours have already killed 35 people since the start of the rainy season in October, and eight major rivers are above crisis levels.

Experts predict that the southern town of Chokwe -- which saw water rise to roof level in previous floods -- could again bear the brunt of the floods.

"The situation is critical," said Elidio Jamisse, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) advisor to Mozambique's emergency response service.

"The Massingir dam on the Elephant river (a tributary of the Limpopo) is already at 3,500 cubic metres per second," he said, noting: "This water will join the water from the Limpopo. All this water is headed for Chokwe."

Areas to the north of the town, where the river had risen to more than 11 metres (36 feet), were already under water.

"When these 11.8 metres of water arrive in Chokwe, it will be added to the water that is already above the level of alert," Jamisse said.

"The prediction is that starting tomorrow it will ar-

rive in Chokwe. That is why all our teams are working to evacuate people."

From Sunday to Monday almost 185 millimetres (over seven inches) of rain poured over the Limpopo river basin in southern Gaza province, where the most vulnerable communities live.

Figures from the Mozambican National Water Directorate on Tuesday showed that the southeastern town of Panda received some 233 millimetres (nine inches) of rain between Monday and Tuesday.

International organisations are preparing for the worst-case scenario.



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#### **International News**

#### **New York Hasidic leader** gets 103 years for abuse

NEW YORK (AFP) - A leader of a reclusive Orthodox Jewish sect in New York was sentenced Tuesday to 103 years in prison for sexually abusing a girl who'd been sent to him for counseling.

Nechemya Weberman, a prominent figure in the ultrastrict Satmar branch of Hasidic Jews, was convicted of abusing the girl over the course of three years in the Brooklyn neighborhood where their community has a huge enclave.

The case caused an uproar in the Satmar community, shattering a code of silence imposed by the group's insistence on dealing with matters internally and not going to the po-

"If there is one message to take away from this case, it is that this office will pursue the evil of sexual abuse of a child no matter where it occurs," District Attorney Charles Hynes said. "The abuse of a child cannot be swept under

the rug or dealt with by insular groups believing only they know what is best for their community. In this case, it took the courage of a young woman to drive home the point that justice can only be achieved through the involvement of civil authorities charged with protecting all the people.'

Weberman, 54, was convicted on 59 counts of criminal sexual acts, abuse, and child endangerment.

The trial was marred by allegations of intimidation by Weberman's supporters, including an attempt to bribe the girl into dropping her case. Several men were also accused of illegally taking pictures of the accuser and putting them

The defense claimed that the girl made up the accusations to take revenge against Weberman for informing her parents that she'd revealed to him she was romantically involved with a boy -- something banned in their community.



MEXICAN CITY ( AFP) - A Mexican member of migrants organizations holds a sign during a protest in front of the US embassy against the trafficking of weapons to Mexico and the failure of the US immigration reform, on January 21, 2013, in Mexico City.

#### Water shut off to Chilean capital

SANTIAGO (AFP) - More than two million people in the Chilean capital were without drinking water Tuesday because of contamination in a river that supplies the city with water, officials said.

Water was shut down to more than 593,000 homes in the metropolitan area, beginning early Tuesday until at least midnight, forcing the closure of restaurants, offices and playgrounds in areas affected by the

Aguas Andinas said a landslide in the Maipo river, the city's main source of water, had fouled the company's water processing plants.

Tanker-trucks distributed water in several neighborhoods, while many supermarkets and stores saw their shelves emptied of bottled water. The city has a population of about five million people.

#### **British** grandmother gets death for drugs in Indonesia

DENPASAR (AFP) - A 56year-old British grandmother was sentenced to death Tuesday for smuggling cocaine into the Indonesian island of Bali, in a shock verdict after prosecutors recommended 15 years imprisonment.

Lindsay Sandiford sobbed as the court in Bali's capital Denpasar handed down the sentence, over a drugs haul worth \$2.4 million found in her suitcase as she arrived on a flight from Bangkok last May.

British human rights charity Reprieve said last month that Sandiford "was exploited by drug traffickers, who targeted her because of her vulnerability and her fear for the safety of her children".

#### French teachers strike over having to work five-day week

PARIS (AFP) - Most primary schools in Paris shut down Tuesday as teachers went on strike over the Socialist government's plans to make children attend classes five days a week, instead of the current

President François Hollande promised as part of his election campaign last year to add a half day of classes on Wednesday -- currently a day off -- and shorten the school day for the rest of the week.

His argument was that French kids' education was suffering because they had one of the shortest school years in Europe but the longest school day.

But teachers are worried that the extra half day -- due to be introduced as from September this year -- will add to what they see as their already heavy workload without any financial

Jerome Lambert of the teachers' union SNUipp-FSU noted that teachers, a majority of whom are Socialist supporters, were "disappointed" by what he said was a reform that in reality was no more than window-dressing.

Nicolas Wallet, a teacher

said the government's promise to provide sporting or cultural activities to make up for the shortened school day was not credible.

The education ministry has proposed a range of activities to fill the extra time children would have after school if the reform goes ahead.

But that could require extra staff and more funding from budgets already strained by the economic crisis gripping France.

striking teachers The planned to hold a protest march later Tuesday.

French primary schools have had a mid-week break since the 19th century.

But the state provides lowcost "leisure centres" -- which are usually in schools -- where working parents can send their children on Wednesdays.

Following his election in May, Hollande vowed to make education a key focus of his five-year term.

He proposed reducing the number of students forced to repeat grades, increasing teacher levels, schooling children at younger ages in disadvantaged areas and boosting measures to fight absenteeism.



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products that have strong -- or

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such as menthol, chocolate or

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Packs of fewer than 20 cig-

arettes would also be banned

as well as 'slims,' while elec-

tronic cigarettes, which con-

tain some nicotine, would only

be authorised as medicinal

ture of Europe,' said the head

of Austria's VCPO tobac-

conists, Klaus W. Fischer.

""This will end up like prohi-

"Smoking is part of the cul-

young people.

products.

#### **Health & Living**

### Europe's tobacconists march against EU smoking crackdown



BRUSSELS (AFP) - Thousands of tobacconists from across Europe marched on European Union headquarters on Tuesday to protest against a planned EU crackdown on smoking that includes grueseome health warnings placarded on packets.

From Austria, Germany and Poland, but most largely from France and Italy, 2,200 marchers according to police, 3,500 according to organisers, protested against measures they say harm small retailers

and encourage cigarette smuggling.

European Confederation of Tobacco Retailers (CEDT), Pascal Montredon said the EU should ban cigarette sales on the internet and stop the continual increase in the price of packets in some countries.

He said 6,000 of France's 33,000 tobacconists had closed since 2004.

In December, the European Commission released new proposals notably aimed at dissuading young people from taking up smoking that included a ban on menthol cigarettes and large health warnings covering 75 percent of packets.

Almost 700,000 Europeans die from tobacco-related illnesses each year -- equal to the population of a Frankfurt or Palermo -- with associated health costs running at more than 25 billion euros, the EU executive said.

A key measure would be a

### -- Juicing is the fast track to good health. Using organ

-- Juicing is the fast track to good health. Using organic vegetables for juicing allows you to take in more vegetables at one time than you would by eating raw or cooked vegetables. The concentrated vegetable mass in liquid form is easily assimilated, thus making juicing daily ideal for health problems. The health benefits of drinking carrot juice are thought to be good prenatal health, eyesight, bones and teeth, liver and nails, skin and hair, reproductive health as well as helping in cancer prevention. Carrot juice is known for beta carotene which gives

the body Vitamin A, B Vitamins, Vitamin E and many minerals. The darker the color of the carrot, the more carotene it contains. Many people find the taste of carrot juice enjoyable and surprisingly sweet. Carrot juice does have a high concentration of natural sugar, so those with diabetes should consult their doctor as to how much they can drink.



## Japan to ease US, French beef import restrictions

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan plans to ease restrictions on American and French beef imports imposed due to concerns over mad cow disease, government officials and local media said Tuesday.

Japan, which was once the largest buyer of US beef, halted imports after a case of mad cow disease was detected in an American herd in 2003. It now imports meat only from cattle aged under 20 months.

Tokyo plans to raise the limit to 30 months starting on February 1 if the health ministry's council gives approval, the health, labour and welfare minister Norihisa Tamura told

a news conference.

Japan will also apply the same age limit to beef imported from France, which was previously totally banned, Kyodo News quoted unnamed ministry officials as saying.

As for beef from cattle raised in the Netherlands, currently also subject to a total ban, Japan has been in talks with the Dutch government to set the age restriction at up to 12 months in response to its request, Kyodo said.

Beef meeting these relaxed criteria is expected to start arriving in Japan around late February to early March, it added.





#### **Sci-Tech**

# Spain's Iberdrola opens three new wind parks in US



MADRID (AFP) - Spanish energy group Iberdrola began operating three new wind parks in the United States on Tuesday, the company said, a move that strengthens its position as the number two renewable energy operator in the country.

The wind parks are located in California, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and they have a total capacity of over 265 megawatts, the company said in a statement.

"With these three new complexes Iberdrola consolidates its commitment to the United States and takes advantage of the country's commitment to wind energy, which is without a doubt the most efficient and mature of all renewables," it said.

The largest of the three new wind parks is located in Manzana, California and it has an installed capacity of 189 megawatts, making it one of the biggest wind parks in the world, the company said.

It has 126 wind turbines produced by US industrial giant General Electric.

The company also started operating a wind park in Groton, New Hampshire with 24 wind turbines with a combined capacity of 48 megawatts and one in Hoosac, Massachusetts that has 19 wind turbines with a capacity of 28.5 megawatts.

The wind turbines used in Groton were made by Spain's Gamesa while those used in Hoosac were made by General Electric.

Iberdrola has been present in the United States since 2006. It has over 5,700 megawatts of installed capacity in the world's largest economy.



### AT&T spends \$780 million to buy more spectrum

-- The company announced Tuesday that it is buying the U.S. retail wireless operations of a carrier called Atlantic Tele-Network or ATNI. As part of the deal, AT&T will acquire wireless spectrum licenses, network assets, retail stores and approximately 585,000 subscribers.

ATNI operates under the Alltel name in the U.S. Its network covers roughly 4.6 million in rural areas in six states including, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, and South Carolina.

The spectrum licenses that AT&T is acquiring are in the 700MHz, 850MHz, and 1900MHz band. AT&T uses

700MHz for its 4G LTE network and it uses 850MHz and 1900MHz for its 2G and 3G networks.

The transaction must still be approved by regulators, including the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice. AT&T said in its press release that it expects the deal to close in the second half of 2013.

AT&T has been on the hunt for wireless spectrum as it looks to expand its 4G LTE network and keep up with demand on its 3G HSPA+ network. In 2011, the company tried to buy No. 4 wireless carrier T-Mobile in a deal that was worth \$39 billion. But

regulators put the kibosh on those plans. AT&T was left with a hefty breakup fee for failing to get the deal done. And it was also without the additional spectrum it told the FCC and others it desperately needed from T-Mobile.

Since then, the carrier has stayed away from bigger deals and instead has focused on smaller spectrum acquisitions. In 2012, AT&T entered into more than 40 spectrum deals. At an investor conference in November, the company's executives said they were in good shape when it comes to spectrum, but they seem to still need more.



#### Ways to go greener at home ...

- Don't turn on lights at all for as long as you can open your curtains and enjoy natural light.
- Turn off lights when you leave the room or when not needed.
- Drive the speed limit, and combine all your errands for the week in one trip.
- Turn off your computer completely at night.
- Pay your bills online. Not only is it greener, it's a sanity saver.
- Reuse scrap paper. Print on two sides, or let your kids color on the back side of used paper.
- Line dry your laundry.
   Use cloth napkins daily instead of paper.



(FILES) (AFP) - A file picture taken on December 3, 2012 shows a student using an Ipad digital tablet at the British School of Paris in Croissy-sur-Seine, east of Paris. The classroom of teacher Emma Cluskey would be like in any other primary schools, except that her pupils use digital tablets instead of writing with pencils on their schoolbooks.



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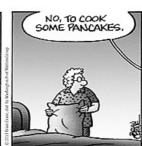


#### **PICKLES**









#### **MOMMA**







#### CALVIN and HOBBES









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#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Swindle 5. Cheeseboard selection
- 9. Black bird
- 13. Fable 14. Large volume
- 15. Flavoring plant
- 16. Monogram pt.
- 17. Mend
- 18. Asylum
- 19. 1936 MacDonald-Eddy film
- 21. Changeless
- 22. Attacks
- 23. NASA's
- Armstrong \_ wave
- 27. Sarcastic

13

16

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- 32. Jack of rhyme
- 36. Daughter of Amonasro

- 39. Renee's roast 40. 1935 MacDonald-
  - Eddy film
- 43. District 44. Long glacial
- ridges 45. Buttes' kin
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- 71 Across 48. Historical
- division
- 50. Complain
- 53. Tent

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- caterpillars \_ Bird of Youth"
- 62. See 46 Across 64. Get out of

- 65. Recherché 66. Emperor
- Akbar's capital 67. Announcer
- Johnny
- 68. In due time
- 69. Back end
- 70. Eve erred here
- 71. See 46 Across
- 72. Sea flier

#### **DOWN**

15

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- 2. Light boat
- 3. Canting
- Distributes
- Clear gas Take-action
- type 7. Suddenly,
- formerly

69

8. Hullabaloo

#### 9. Famed Honolulu gumshoe

- 10. Gauche
- 12. Exited
- 15. South-of-the-
- 20. March, e.g.
- 24. Certain beam
- 26. Techniques
- 28. Renewable
- gal 31. Creeks
- one
- 37. \_ Loser
- 38. Be bold
- 41. Soy product
- 42. Insect stage
- 51. Kind of vote
- 54. Give a dirty look
- 57. Pitfall
- 59. Tuesday of
- 60. Relieve
- 61. Uniform in
- 63. Love god

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- 11. Call or all
- start
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- resource 29. Bozo's guests
- 30. Sundance's
- 32. Unforeseen
- problem \_-mutuel 34. Chest-beating
- 35. Kaffiyeh cord
- (Beatles)
- enough
- 47. Habitually
- 49. London street
- 52. Ladd film
- trimming tool 56. Aired anew
- 58. Blackthorn fruit
- "Dobie Gillis"
- size

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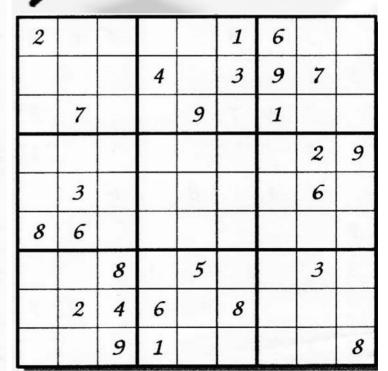
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#### **Finance**

## White House gives grudging welcome on debt limit plan

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House said Tuesday that President Barack Obama would not block a Republican plan to extend government borrowing authority by three months but would prefer a longer term debt ceiling hike.

Defusing a showdown with Obama, Republican House leaders are ready to permit the government to borrow more money to meet its obligations until May 18, despite earlier demands that debt ceiling hikes be matched by spending cuts.

The move would effectively remove the debt ceiling ques-

tion from a looming conflagration with Republicans on Capitol Hill over spending cuts due to come into force at the end of next month and a soon-to-expire government budget.

White House spokesman Jay Carney noted that the debt ceiling work around still had to make it past opposition from some conservative Republican members of Congress.

The government hit its statutory \$16 trillion debt limit last year but the administration has used extraordinary measures to postpone the devastating economic shockwaves that would result from defaulting on its

obligations until late February or early March.

The House bill would withhold salaries of members of Congress if the chamber or the Senate does not pass a fiscal 2014 budget by April 15.

The Democratic-held Senate has not voted on a budget since 2009, and the federal government is being funded through temporary resolutions every six months.

Democratic leaders have said they would introduce a budget plan in the coming months, and pledged to consider the debt limit suspension should it pass the House.

### Microsoft in talks on Dell buyout: reports

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NEW YORK(AFP) - Microsoft is in talks with private equity investors on a possible buyout of US computer giant Dell, the Wall Street Journal and cable news channel CNBC reported Tuesday.

The reports, citing sources close to the discussions, said Microsoft was considering investing \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

Dell has not commented on reports circulating since last week which said the popular computer maker, which has slipped from its number one position and has struggled amid a shift to mobile devices, was preparing to go private.

The move, which would delist the company from stock markets, could ease some of the pressure on Dell, which is cash-rich but has been seeing profits slump.

Microsoft did not respond to an AFP query on the reports, which said it was in talks with the equity firm Silver Lake Partners.

Dell shares extended their recent rally, gaining 2.4 percent to \$13.15. The reports

said a deal for the shares could be priced at between \$13 and \$14.

Sterne Agee analyst Shaw Wu said a deal in that price range is possible, but that "a materially higher price is less likely."

Wu said in a note to clients that "attractive returns could prove difficult" for Dell and that based on prior buyouts "acquirers underestimate the secular pressures a company in decline faces."

"While going private makes sense in taking the company out of the limelight and public scrutiny, we are not sure it improves the company's fundamental position," Wu said.

He said that despite Dell's efforts to diversify, "about 70 percent of its business is tied to PCs."

"The reality is that ever-increasing competition from Lenovo, Asustek, Apple, Google, Acer, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Samsung, and Cisco isn't going away by going private," he added.

### GM's Brazil auto workers launch 24-hour strike

SAO PAOLO (AFP)- Thousands of auto workers launched a 24-hour strike at General Motors' Brazilian unit Tuesday on the eve of crunch talks to avert 1,598 planned layoffs, their union said.

The Metalworkers' union said the action by nearly 4,500 workers at the GM facility in the industrial city of Sao Jose dos Campos, 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Sao Paulo, aimed to pressure the federal government into preventing the job cuts scheduled to take effect Saturday.

The union wants President Dilma Rousseff to step in to stop the layoffs at a struggling production line at GM's

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sprawling complex, which has eight plants and employs 7,500 workers.

It said the workers also blocked traffic on a road outside the plant with burned tires and unfurled banners during the demonstration, including one urging Rousseff to "ban the layoffs at GM."

A GM spokesman told AFP that the US automaker would not comment on Tuesday's developments, saying only that "the negotiations with the union will resume Wednesday."

Last Friday, the two sides met but failed to find common ground, with the union accusing GM of continued intransigence.

But a GM spokesman at the time reported "some movement" during the four hours of

bargaining talks.

He quoted Luiz Moan, GM's head of institutional relations, as saying the company was seeking "greater competitiveness" and believed a deal could be reached if the union "presents concrete measures" showing more flexibility.

Last August, GM and the union reached a deal to delay the layoffs until January 26.

The union has estimated that the layoffs would translate into a total loss of around 15,000 jobs in Sao Jose dos Campos.

A union statement meanwhile reiterated that Wednesday's meeting would coincide with a day of global action against GM in six countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, Germany and the United States.

### Europe's 'milestone' financial tax wins approval

BRUSSELS (AFP) - European Union finance ministers Tuesday gave 11 nations a final goahead to launch a controversial financial transactions tax seen by many as a way of making the finance sector pay for the economic crisis.

The new tax will be "a milestone", the commissioner said.
"A block representing around two-thirds of EU GDP (gross domestic product) will implement this fair tax together, answering the long-time calls of their citizens."

The European Commission and European Parliament gave their blessing to the introduction of an FTT, respectively in October and November.

The 11 were authorised to go ahead with the planned levy under what is known as "enhanced cooperation", a rare procedure enabling a minimum of nine EU nations to work together without the rest of the 27 EU states when there

is no general agreement.

Enhanced cooperation was first used in the field of divorce law and was last year approved a second time in the field of patents. This will be its third use.

Britain notably was opposed but did not stand in the way of the creation of an FTT, initially proposed by France and Germany, then joined by Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

The tax aims to curb the market excesses that led to the 2008 global financial crisis but the notion failed to gain overall EU support, in part due to British concerns over the City of London's future.

Oxfam estimated the tax could bring in 37 billion euros annually, and that if half went to development it could help 550 million of the world's poorest people to access free healthcare.



### First Lady in Red, for Inaugural Ball



-- Michelle Obama is stunning in her second Inaugural gown—and it's by the same designer as her first.

The first lady went with a ruby-colored chiffon gown with a plunging back and black velvet accents, according to pool reports. The dress was made by Jason Wu, who also designed the single-strap white gown Obama wore in 2009. Obama also wore diamondembellished ring by jewelry designer Kimberly McDonald and a pair of Jimmy Choo shoes. Obama's outfit will be housed at the National Archives following the inauguration.

"I'm still floating," Wu told The New York Times. "To have done it once was already the experience of my life. To have a second time is tremendous."

Michelle Obama, clearly a big fan of the 30-year-old designer, was introduced to Wu



by Vogue's Andre Leon Tally.
Four years ago, Mrs.
Obama chose a white chiffon one shouldered gown by Jason Wu when her husband, President Barack Obama was first sworn into office. Since then, Wu has reveled in his successes by designing a sold-out-on-the-first day Target line, in addition to emerging as a household name in fashion a major feat for a young, independent designer.

### Justin Bieber Surpasses Lady Gaga on Twitter

-- On Monday night, Justin Bieber surpassed fellow singer Lady Gaga to become the most-followed person on Twitter. As of Tuesday morning, The Biebs had more than 33,333,000 followers, while Gaga was closing in on 33,329,000.

Neither had immediately acknowledged the milestone on Twitter. Gaga's latest tweet was a message to fans about her concert Monday night in Hollywood, California, while Bieber's was a plug for a recent Teen Vogue photo shoot.

The coiffed Canadian crooner is Twitter's first new king or queen since Gaga dethroned Britney Spears in August 2010. But Gaga still has more fans on Facebook -- almost 55 million, compared to Bieber's 50,666,000.

### Batmobile sold at auction for \$4.62 million: *report*



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Batmobile, the futuristic car used in the "Batman" television show, has been sold at auction for \$4.62 million, US media reported. The crime-fighting vehicle was built by George Barris, who bought a 1955 Lincoln Futura at a junk yard for just \$1 and transformed it into one of the most recognizable vehicles in entertainment history, the ABC television network said. It was used on the "Batman" television show from 1966 to 1968. The ABC said the sale took place at the Barrett-Jackson car auction in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Saturday. The buyer has not been formally identified, but the Hollywood Reporter newspaper said it was Rick Champagne, owner of a Tempe, Arizona-based logistics company.

#### Lupe Fiasco Kicked Out Of Inauguration Party

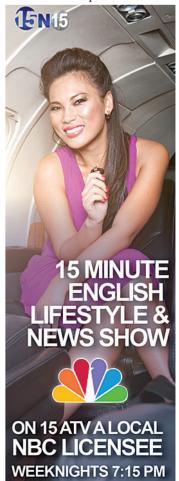


Lupe Fiasco, who took the stage at the StartUp RockOn concert at the Hamilton Live in Washington on Sunday (January 20), just one of the events commemorating President Barack Obama's second inauguration, was kicked out of the venue after performing his track "Words I Never Said," a song critical of the president.

In footage of the performance, Lupe delivers his message with vigor:

"And these the same people supposedly telling us the truth / Limbaugh is a racist, Glenn beck is a racist, Gaza strip was getting bombed, Obama didn't say sh-- / That's why I ain't vote for him, next one either / I'm part of the problem, my problem is I'm peaceful."

Several reported that Lupe was booted from the stage for expressing his political views but a statement from event organizers claimed that it "was not about his opinions."



## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's clasic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

#### The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"-"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full

Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mus-



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

sels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

#### Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there.'

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www. goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

#### **Sport**

# Ivory Coast vs. Togo, 2013 Africa Cup of Nations



RUSTENBURG - Yaya Toure got Les Elephants off to a brilliant start with a comfortable *four Source for Local News in English* 



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#### Africa Cup of Nations 2013



Tunisia midfielder Youssef Msakni is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal

Toure. Barry came up with a huge reaction save from close range in the final minute of stoppage time, preserving his team's

finish from 12 yards in the 8th minute, with Gervinho provid-

ing the assist. Ivory Coast

looked to be coasting to a half-

time lead until the second

minute of first half stoppage

time, when Jonathan Ayite

took advantage of some bad

set piece marking to turn in a

Bad set piece marking was

also a feature of the winner.

punched in by Gervinho in the 88th minute. He got free at the

far post and Togo goalkeeper Kossi Agassa got caught way out of position, gifting him a free tap-in on a cross by Yaya

ball by Serge Gakpe.

(photo Ivory Coast midfielder Romaric (L) vies for the ball with Togo defender

Mamah Gaffar during their Group D match) REMEMBER



up

RUSTENBURG (AFP) Youssef Msakni struck in the final minute to hand Tunisia a 1-0 win over Algeria in a scrappy Maghreb derby here on Mon-

Msakni, a recent \$15 million (11,276 million euros) signing for Qatar club Lakhouya, lived up to his 'Little Mozart' nickname with a superb strike to settle a game that had otherwise failed miserably to justify its billing as one of the headline ties of the opening round.

Algeria coach Vahid Halilhodzic said: "The result was an enormous disappointment for my players -- we deserved to get something out of the game.

The North African neighbours, both former champions, were meeting for the first time in the 56-year Africa Cup of Na-

And Maghreb upped sticks for the night to the other end of the continent, well at least 1,000 Algerian and several hundred Tunisian fans who made the long trip south.

Despite the 42,000-capacity Royal Bafokeng stadium being only a quarter full, the atmosphere was charged.

Tunisia suffered an early blow when Kuwait-based striker Issam Jemaa had to come off with a left thigh injury after earlier clashing with Essaid Belkalem. Hamdi Harbaoui took his place.

On 29 minutes, Algeria had the first chance worthy of the name when Sofiane Feghouli's inch-perfect cross found lone out-and-out forward Islam Slimani and his header rattled Moez Ben Cherifia's bar.

Tunisia caught Algeria hopping on a counter-attack near the interval, French Ligue 1 striker Saber Khalifa racing into the box only to see his rising shot blasting off Rais Mbolhi's outstretched nalms

The half-time entertainment, four girls and the competition's fluffy mascot dancing, was more attention-grabbing than the turgid 45 minutes dished up on the pitch.

Tunisia coach Sami Trabelsi made one switch of personnel at the break, bringing on midfielder Oussama Darragi for Mejdi Traoui.

Northern Irish band D Ream had a huge hit with 'Things Can Only Get Better' in the 1990s, but as far as this game was concerned they got worse, until a cracking shot from Algeria's Nottingham Forest midfielder Adlane Guedioura flew just too high.

At the other end, Harbaoui was narrowly off target with a close-range effort.

The game badly needed a goal, and it duly came with Msakni curling a peach of a shot in from the outside of the box, the ball thudding into the top corner of the stunned Mbolhi's net.

Msakni's late moment of magic lifted Tunisia to second in Group D behind Ivory Coast, 2-1 winners over Togo earlier.



SANTIAGO, Chile (AFP) : TOPSHOTS Mini's driver Leonid Novitskiy (R) of Russia and co-driver Konstantion Zhiltsov pose on the podium with their trophies of the Dakar 2013 in Santiago, Chile on January 20, 2013. Mini's driver Stephane Perterhansel (R) of France and co-driver Jean Paul Cottret won the Dakar 2013 ahead of Toyota's driver Giniel De Villiers of South Africa and codriver Dirk Von Zitzewitz and Mini's driver Leonid Novitskiy of Russia and co-driver Konstantion Zhiltsov





### NBA: Rockets end skid with win Baseball: Dodgers name over Bobcats, Johnson shines as Nets edge Knicks

CHARLOTTE (AFP) - James Harden scored 29 points on Monday to lead Houston to a 100-94 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats that ended the Rockets' NBA losing streak at seven games.

The Rockets overcame a 35point effort from Charlotte's Kemba Walker, whose careerhigh scoring performance wasn't enough to prevent the Bobcats from enduring a club record 15th straight home defeat.

Harden scored 12 of his points in the fourth quarter, when Houston out-scored Charlotte by a 26-13 margin.

Houston's bench came up big, with Marcus Morris delivering 21 points and eight re-

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Tel: 588-9517 / Fax: 588-9518 E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com Website: www.themorningnewsaruba.com bounds and fellow reserve Carlos Delfino adding 16 points.

Up by 11 at halftime, the Bobcats shot a dismal 21.1 percent -- connecting on only 4of-19 from the floor - in the final period.

Houston's Jeremy Lin was ineffective guarding Walker and didn't play in the fourth

"When Lin backed off me I was confident and I made them," Walker said of his six three-pointers.

Rockets coach Kevin McHale changed his strategy for containing Walker in the final period.

In his 10 minutes of playing time in the final quarter, Walker connected on just 2-of-5 shots and had no assists.

Although Rockets players acknowledged they still have weaknesses to address, they were relieved to end the demoralizing skid.

While Joe Johnson scored 25 points and drained the goahead basket with 22.3 seconds left Monday as the Brooklyn Nets beat the New York Knicks 88-85 to earn a split of the season series between the crosstown rivals.

Deron Williams scored 14 points and handed out 12 assists and Brook Lopez scored 14 with 11 rebounds for the Nets, who moved within one game of the Knicks atop the Eastern Conference's Atlantic

The Nets, who moved from Jew Jersey and opened for business in the New York City borough of Brooklyn this season, improved to 11-2 under coach P.J. Carlesimo and split their four regular-season games against Manhattan institution the Knicks 2-2.

Carmelo Anthony scored a game-high 29 points and handed out seven assists. But Anthony was off-target with a potential go-ahead basket late in the fourth quarter.

J.R. Smith added 16 points and Amare Stoudemire scored 15 for the Knicks, who have lost four of their last six games.

The game was tied at 75-75 early in the fourth quarter when Johnson launched exploded to score eight points to two from the Knicks.

The Knicks responded with a 7-0 burst to take an 84-83 lead with 40.9 seconds left.

Johnson's pull-up jump shot restored Brooklyn's one-point

After a timeout, Anthony caught a pass on the right and drove to the basket but missed his shot with the Nets grabbing the rebound.

The nets stretched it to 88-85 before Smith's three-point attempt at the buzzer missed

### legend Koufax as advisor



LOS ANGELES (AFP) -Sandy Koufax, a Hall of Fame pitcher who played for four World Series champions, was named Tuesday as a special advisor to Los Angeles Dodgers chairman Mark Walter by the Major League Baseball club.

The 77-year-old left-hander will work with pitchers during the team's pre-season training camp and consult about pitching during the season.

"To be able to tap Sandy's expertise and counsel during spring training and throughout the season will provide yet another tremendous resource in our efforts to strengthen our club," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said.

In 12 seasons with the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers from 1955-1966, Koufax went 165-87 with a 2.76 earned-run average. He struck out 2,396 batters and tossed 137 complete games, 40 of them shutout triumphs.

Koufax hurled four no-hitters in his career, one of them a perfect game, and was a three-time unanimous selection as the National League's Cy Young Award winner as a season's top pitcher.

Koufax helped the Dodgers to World Series titles in 1955, 1959, 1963 and 1965, taking Most Valuable Player honors in the last two of those title runs. He went 4-3 with a 0.95 earned-run average in playoff

#### NBA: Woeful Cavaliers get help from **Grizzlies**

CLEVELAND (AFP) - The Cleveland Cavaliers, with the NBA's second-worst record, received some help from Memphis on Tuesday in a trade deal that will save the Grizzlies some money.

Brazilian center Anderson Varejao will be lost to the Cavaliers for the season because of a blood clot in his right lung, putting the club in the market for some immediate help after a 10-32 start to the campaign.

Memphis sent the Cavaliers forward Marreese Speights, guards Wayne Ellington and Josh Selby plus a first-round draft pick for forward Jon Leuer, trimming the Grizzlies' payroll so they avoid paying an NBA luxury tax this season.

The Grizzlies will cut about \$6 million off their payroll. Memphis would have otherwise had to pay about \$4 million in luxury tax for being above the salary cap without the deal.

At 26-14, the Grizzlies rank fourth in the Western Conference behind only the three division leaders -- San Antonio, Oklahoma City and the Los Angeles Clippers.

Speights, who spent three seasons with Philadelphia be-

fore joining Memphis last season, is averaging 6.5 points and 4.7 rebounds a game but has slid out of the starting role he enjoyed last season.

Selby has averaged 2.0 points in 10 games for the Grizzlies while Ellington, who spent three prior seasons at Minnesota, is averaging 6.3 points over 229 career NBA







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#### Tennis: Djokovic bounces back with easy win over Berdych



**MELBOURNE** (AFP) Novak Djokovic bounced back from a marathon five-setter just 48 hours earlier as he skated into the Australian Open semi-finals with a untroubled win over Tomas Berdych on Tuesday.

The Serbian world number one, chasing a hat-trick of Australian crowns, showed no ill-effects of his torrid fivehour dogfight with Stanislas Wawrinka as he beat the Czech fifth seed, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in 2hr 31min.

Djokovic now faces a semifinal on Thursday against Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer, who fought back to beat countryman Nicolas Almagro in five sets earlier Tuesday.

Most interest centred on how Djokovic would recover after his epic fourth-round match with Wawrinka, but he dispelled fears by easily claiming the opening set for the loss of one game in 29

Berdych broke the Serb in the opening game and went on to level the match by taking the second set, but it was all Djokovic in the closing two

Djokovic finished with six breaks of the strong Berdych service and hit 47 winners with just 25 unforced errors, while the Czech conceded 43

Djokovic revealed that he didn't get to sleep until 5:00 am after his last marathon night match and he had accelerated his recovery by taking ice baths.

"It takes a lot of time after a match like that, it's so physically exhausting and demanding along with mentally and emotionally, so you try to do everything that night to recover," he said.

"But after a five-hour match two days ago against Stan, I was quite convinced I could recover for this one. My team did a great job."

It was Djokovic's 12th win over Berdych in 13 meetings with the Czech's only win coming on grass in the semifinals of 2010 Wimbledon.

The victory clinched Diokovic's 11th consecutive Grand Slam semi-final and he is 9-5 in matches against Fer-

Berdych said although Djokovic had played well he had seen him play better in their previous encounters.

"The only thing I can say is that I've played him in many matches and and I've seen him play way better," the Czech

"It was kind of a chance for me, but I didn't come up with my best game and that's what was deciding today."

#### Cycling: Cavendish celebrates new team start with stage win



SAN LUIS, Argentina (AFP) - British cycling star Mark Cavendish celebrated his first outing in the colours of new team Omega-Pharma Quick Step with a sprint victory in the first stage of the Tour de San Luis.

Cavendish, the 2011 world road race champion who left the Sky team late last year, came across the finish line after a 164km stage ahead of Italians Sacha Modolo (Bardiani) and Alessandro Petacchi (Lampre).

The Isle of Man native added: "It was a quite tough finish, with a bit of a incline and not much indication for

the 200 and 100m marks, so I decided to go for it 250m out from the finish line.

Other top cyclists starting their season in Argentina were Spain's two-time Tour de France champion Contador Alberto (Saxo-Tinkoff) and Joaquim Rodriguez (Katusha), who finished on two Grand Tour podiums in 2012.

Both cyclists finished in the main peloton.

The second stage is a 171.4km ride from Tilisarao to Terrazas del Portezuelo.

Results from 1st stage

Mark Cavendish (GBR/Omega-Pharma Quick Step) 3hr 48min 04sec, 2. Sacha Modolo (ITA) same time, 3. Alessandro Petacchi (ITA) s.t., 4. Leight Howard (AUS) s.t., 5. Peter Sagan (SVK) s.t.

Selected

48. Vincenzo Nibali (ITA) s.t., 70. Alberto Contador (ESP) s.t., 135. Joaquim Rodriguez (ESP) s.t.

